

10 February 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Latest Development in the NOSTRIL Case: An Approach by a Journalist

1. NOSTRIL/1 phoned me at home at about 2200 hours Saturday evening 1 February 1975 to inform me that he had been called upon by a journalist who appeared to have some fairly sensitive and classified, though historical, information. The conversation was double-talked, so I can not be absolutely certain that I understood accurately everything N/1 was trying to convey.

2. N/1 stated that a reporter from the Paterson Evening Record had come to N/1's house earlier that day asking a number of questions. Some of these questions related to the publicity N/1 has been receiving ever since Congresswoman Holzman published the Justice Department's list of persons under "war crimes" allegations. Some of the other questions, however, were more disturbing. These concerned the mission to Eastern Europe of a certain Circassian agent of this Agency. The Circassian in question (of whose name N/1 flatly denied all knowledge) was one of two spotted by N/1 at the Agency's behest back in the late '50's for SB Division activity, shortly after N/1's arrival in this country. I dimly remember this, although I was not directly involved. The reporter also asked about the case officer who first recruited N/1 in Amman in the early '50's, and who was also involved in the later spotting and dispatching of the Circassian mentioned above. The reporter apparently had the true name of this officer.

3. The developments in this case seem to be cutting progressively closer to the bone. First there was the war criminal allegation, then the remark by the television producer to N/1 suggesting that he is being "protected by that Agency in Washington", and now this revelation that a local journalist

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has somehow obtained the names of a former agent and a still-active deep-cover case officer. Searching for a CI pattern in these developments immediately runs into a fairly serious snag, however: as a club with which any of our enemies might beat the Agency, N/1's operational past seems like a pretty flimsy twig. As an alternate explanation, the idea of a vendetta by one on N/1's personal enemies strikes me as fairly good. He has certainly made plenty of enemies over the years, and Circassians do tend to run toward the long nursing of secret grievances and grudges. Regrettably there is a third, and perhaps even more valid possibility: that N/1 is feeling the economic pinch and is attempting to set us up for some kind of touch - perhaps re-employment, or assistance for relocation.

4. In any case, I recommend we start thinking about having N/1 contacted by someone from SE Division, NE Division, or perhaps better yet, Security. At the least, N/1 should be debriefed in detail (which the current series of phone conversations has not permitted) and if possible his documentary holdings photographed (if he will permit).

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